

- 1 1. A method for determining the level of fluid in a container comprising:
 - 2 obtaining a container having a first fluid region therein;
 - 3 a first fluid being present at an original level in said first fluid region of said
 - 4 container;
 - 5 said container, for when in use, having said first fluid at least partially removed
 - 6 from said container thereby forming a second fluid region;
 - 7 placing on at least one exterior surface of said container at least one
 - 8 temperature-measuring device;
 - 9 at least one said temperature-measuring device being located in a region of said
 - 10 container where said second fluid region is formed by removal of said first fluid;
 - 11 initially observing a first temperature in said first fluid region of said container
 - 12 when said first fluid is present in said first fluid region of said container;
 - 13 subsequently observing a second temperature in said second fluid region of said
 - 14 container after a portion of said first fluid has been removed;
 - 15 correlating the difference between said first temperature and said second
 - 16 temperature to the level of said first fluid in said container.
- 17 2. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in a container according to
- 18 claim 1 wherein a plurality of temperature-measuring device are sequentially
- 19 located in the regions of said container where said second fluid region is formed
- 20 by removal of said first fluid.
- 21 3. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in a container according to
- 22 claim 1 wherein at least one temperature-measuring device is located at a point
- 23 from 5 % to 35% of the original level in said first fluid region of said container.
- 24 4. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in a container according to
- 25 claim 1 wherein at least one temperature-measuring device is
- 26 a eutectic temperature-measuring device.
- 27 5. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in said container
- 28 according to claim 1 where said container is present in a location of low
- 29 humidity.
- 30 6. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in said container according
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1 to claim 5 wherein said container is in a refrigerator.

2 7. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in said container according
3 to claim 1 wherein said first fluid is a liquid.

4 8. The method for determining the level of said first fluid in said container according
5 to claim 1 wherein said second fluid is a gas.

6 9. A fluid dispensing assembly comprising:

7 a sealed container, for when in use, containing a liquid under pressure;

8 said sealed container having an exterior surface;

9 said exterior surface of said sealed container having a heightwise dimension and
10 a widthwise dimension; and

11 at least one temperature-measuring device positioned on said heightwise
12 dimension of said exterior surface.

13 10. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
14 widthwise dimension of said sealed container is generally circular.

15 11. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein a
16 plurality of temperature-measuring device are sequentially located on said
17 heightwise dimension of said exterior surface of said sealed container.

18 12. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein at least
19 one temperature-measuring device is located at a point from 5 % to 35%
20 of said heightwise dimension of said exterior surface of said sealed
21 container.

22 13. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein at least
23 one temperature-measuring device is a eutectic temperature-measuring
24 device.

25 14. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
26 container is a substantially metal container.

27 15. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
28 container is a substantially glass container.

29 16. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein at least
30 one temperature-measuring device is at least partially insulated on the
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- 1 surface spaced apart from said exterior surface of said sealed container.
- 2 17. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein a
- 3 plurality temperature-measuring devices are spaced apart on said exterior
- 4 surface of said sealed container at approximately the same height.
- 5 18. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
- 6 plurality of temperature-measuring devices spaced apart on said exterior
- 7 surface of said sealed container at approximately the same height is at
- 8 least 3.
- 9 19. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
- 10 plurality of temperature-measuring devices spaced apart on said exterior
- 11 surface of said sealed container at approximately the same height is 3 to
- 12 8.
- 13 20. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
- 14 container is marked in the region of at least one of the temperature-
- 15 measuring devices to indicate the approximate fluid level.
- 16 21. The fluid dispensing assembly according to claim 9 wherein said
- 17 container is a beer barrel.
- 18 22. A fluid dispensing assembly comprising:
- 19 a sealed metal beer barrel, for when in use, containing beer under pressure;
- 20 said metal beer barrel having an exterior surface;
- 21 said exterior surface of said metal beer barrel having a heightwise dimension and
- 22 a generally circular cross-sectional dimension; and
- 23 at least one temperature-measuring device positioned on said heightwise
- 24 dimension of said exterior surface of said metal beer barrel.
- 25 23. A temperature-measuring device mounted on a flexible band.
- 26 24. The temperature-measuring device according to claim 23 wherein
- 27 said flexible band is an endless band.
- 28 25. The temperature-measuring device according to claim 23 wherein
- 29 said flexible band has a first end and a second end, said first end having
- 30 connecting means to connect with said second end.

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26. The temperature-measuring device according to claim 25 wherein
said first end has Velcro fastening means.

27. A method of obtaining the level of a liquid or a gas in a container including
the steps of:

obtaining the temperature at a selected region of said container containing
said liquid or said gas;

comparing the temperature at said selected region of said container with a
profile of temperatures corresponding to a liquid level of said fluid in a vessel and
the temperature corresponding to a gas level in the vessel; and,

determining whether the temperature in said container indicates the level of said liquid
or said gas.

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